

RHAPIDOPHYLLUM HYSTRIX
IN MISSISSIPPI

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Rhapidophyllum hystrix (Pursh) Wendland & Drude, the Needle Palm, is a rare shrub of the southeastern Coastal Plain. It occurs sporadically from central Florida and southern Georgia westward to Mississippi (Small, 1923; Harper, 1928; Small, 1933). Recent field studies have extended its known distribution in Mississippi; herbarium specimens will be deposited in MISSA.

The northernmost site known in Mississippi is in Lauderdale County, approximately 10 miles south of Meridian (*Watson* 7314), where it was discovered by Leslie Hubricht. Southward, it has been found in Clarke (*Watson* 7439) and George (*Denier* 1273) counties and reaches its southern limit in Jackson County (*Watson* 7870). It extends westward to Simpson County where it was noted by R. B. Channel in the early 1960's (personal communication). A recent search of this site to obtain herbarium specimens was, however, unsuccessful. Recently it has been found in Forrest County (*Watson* 8115, October 25, 1969), approximately 60 miles east of the Simpson County locality.

Within the state, the Needle Palm is known to occur either along the flood-plains of small streams or along the drainages of rich, wooded ravines.

LITERATURE CITED

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